



# GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

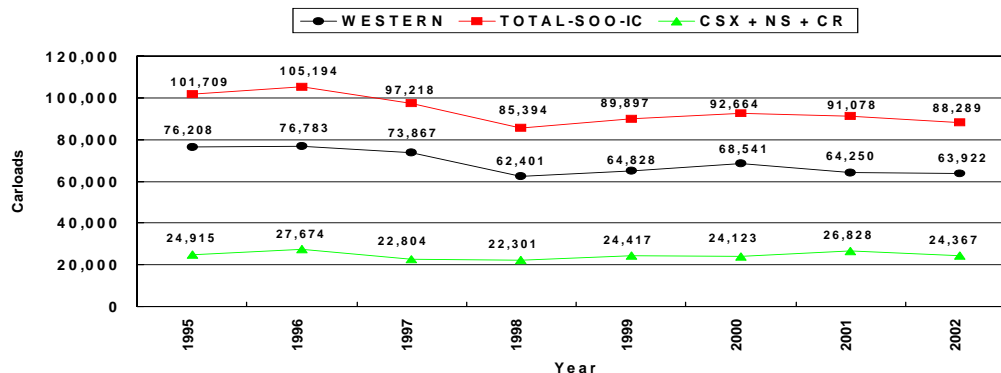
Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture



MARCH 12, 2002

**Grain Traffic Decreases Slightly During the Last 4 Weeks.** The Nation's Class I railroads originated 88,289 carloads of grain during the last 4 weeks, down 3.1 percent from the 91,078 carloads originated during the same period in 2001 (see graph below). Grain originations on the Eastern railroads decreased 9.2 percent whereas grain originations on the Western railroads decreased 0.5 percent. Since the demand for railroad transportation of grain appears to be relatively steady, there has been relatively little bidding for rail cars and rail cars in the secondary market have been trading at discounts (see page 3). Assuming no sudden increase in export activity, demand for rail transportation of grain is expected to remain steady until harvest. (*Marvin.Prater@usda.gov*)

Figure 1. Class 1 Railroad Originated Grain Decreased 3 Percent During the Last Four Weeks as Compared to the Same Period in 2001.



Source: Weekly Railroad Traffic, Association of American Railroads.

**New Coalition for Rail-to-Rail Competition Formed.** The Alliance for Rail Competition (ARC) and the National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) have created a joint venture called the Coalition for Rail-to-Rail Competition (CRRC). Both NITL and ARC will continue to operate as separate entities. The coalition aims to foster unity among rail customers on the issue of competitive choice; create a form to build consensus on principles, strategy and direction; improve the effectiveness of rail customers in bringing about rail-to-rail competition; and create the momentum for change. NITL, which is the oldest and largest national shippers' organization, has 1,600 member companies and organizations and covers all modes of transportation. ARC has 29 member companies and industry groups—25 percent of which are agricultural organizations—and focuses exclusively on rail issues. (*USDA, Transportation Services Program, Marvin Prater, Marvin.Prater@usda.gov*).

**U.S. Coast Guard Establishes Security Zones on the Missouri River.** In order to protect two nuclear plants in Nebraska, the U.S. Coast Guard recently established two security zones on the Missouri River. The first zone is intended to protect the Brownville Cooper Nuclear Power Plant in Brownville, NE. The second security zone is intended to protect the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant at Fort Calhoun, NE. Entry to these zones without appropriate permission from the Captains of the Port is prohibited. The most recent update of the Waterborne Commerce Report of the United States indicates that 730,000 short tons of food and farm products were transported on the Missouri River in 1999. Of the total food and farm products transported, 356,000 short tons (49 percent) were grains, while 317,000 short tons (43 percent) were oilseeds. (*Holland Knight, 3/11, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 3/11*)

Report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Sigal Nissan, Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. This report can be found on the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm). E-mail comments to [Karl.Hacker@usda.gov](mailto:Karl.Hacker@usda.gov).

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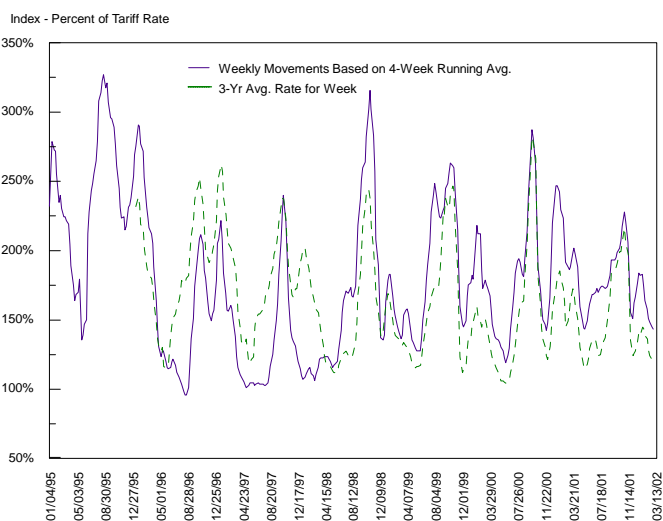
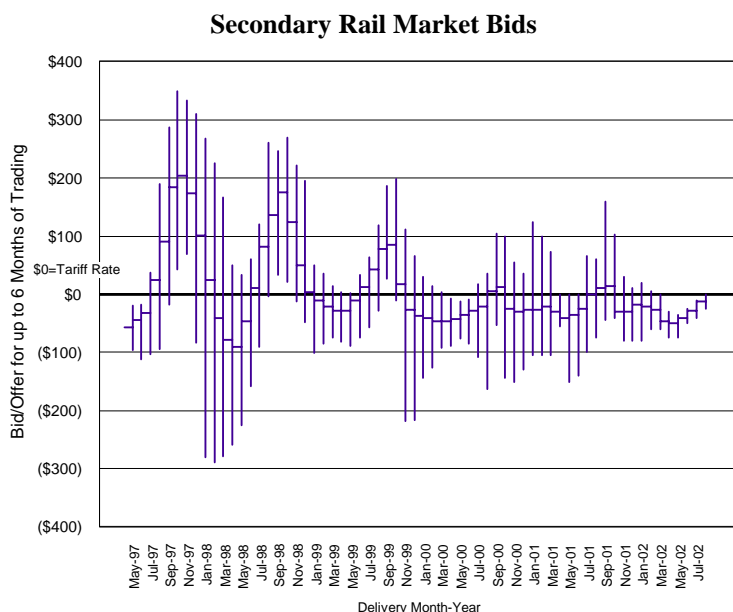
Futures:				Week Ago	Year Ago
			03/08/2002	03/01/2002	03/09/2001
Kansas City	Wht	Mar	2.860	2.8675	3.2560
Minneapolis	Wht	Mar	2.9925	2.9825	3.6200
Minneapolis	Dur	Mar	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Chicago	Wht	Mar	2.7775	2.7850	2.7950
Chicago	Corn	Mar	2.0825	2.0850	2.1975
Chicago	Soyb	Mar	4.6550	4.4650	4.6720



Inland Bids: 12% HRW, 14% HRS, #1 SRW, #1 DUR, #1 SWW, #2 Y Corn, #1 Y Soybeans  
Export Bids: Ord. HRW, 14% HRS, #2 SRW, #2 DUR, #2 SWW, #2 Y Corn, #1 Y Soybeans

Sources...U.S. Inland: All (except ND) - *Market News Report*, AMS, USDA ([www.usda.ams.gov](http://www.usda.ams.gov))  
ND - *Friday Local Cash Grain Prices*, AgWeek, Grand Forks, ND  
U.S. Export: Corn & Soybean - *Export Grain Bids*, AMS, USDA  
Wheat Bids - *Weekly Wheat Report*, U.S. Wheat Associates, Washington, D.C.  
Canada: Bids in CANS, Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg ([www.cwb.ca](http://www.cwb.ca))

### Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Apr-02		May-02	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	12,966	10%	12,735	6%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,400	10%	5,400	0%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

### Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Mar-02	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02
BNSF-GF	\$(1)	\$(21)	\$(32)	\$(21)
UP-Pool	\$(8)	\$(30)	\$(42)	\$(35)

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

### Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02
COT/N. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 4	no bid	no bid	no bid

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com), (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)

### Southbound Barge Freight Nominal/Cash Basis Values

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate	
			Futures	Cash
03/12/02	St. Louis	Mar	0	120
		May	136	120
		Jul	0	140
		Sept	0	188
		Nov	0	0
	Illinois River	Mar	0	138
		May	0	140
		Jul	0	163
		Sept	0	203
		Nov	0	0

Source: St. Louis Merchants Exchange

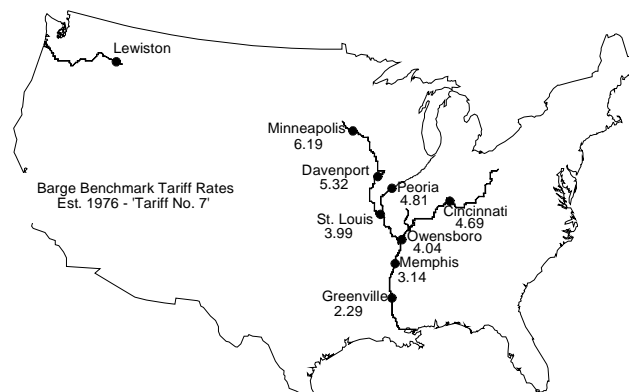
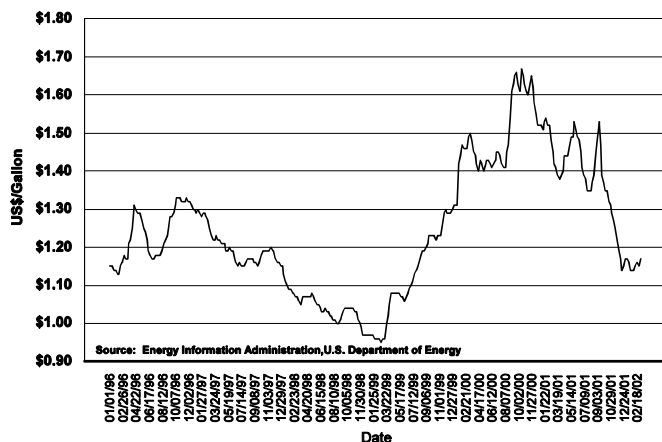
### Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates

	3/6/02	2/27/02	Apr '02	Jun '02
Twin Cities	0	0	187	190
Mid-Mississippi	150	0	151	160
Illinois River	140	141	140	150
St. Louis	116	118	119	127
Lower Ohio	128	120	124	133
Cairo-Memphis	111	111	115	123

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA

nq=no quote;

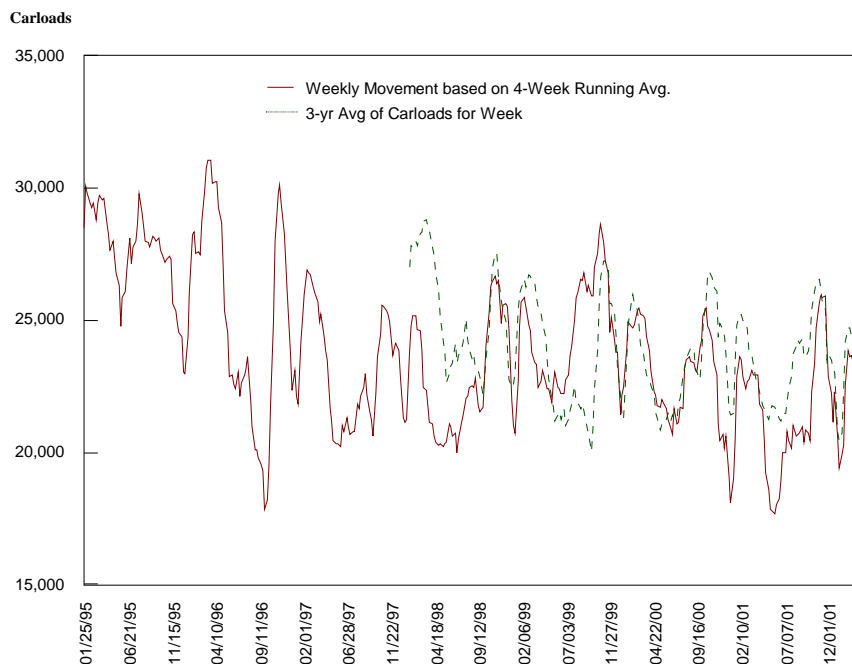
### Weekly Retail Diesel (Road) Prices (Including Taxes)



## Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
02/16/02	24,395
02/23/02	22,187
03/02/02	21,227
Year to Date - 2002	204,513
Year to Date - 2001	203,999
Total 2001	1,117,601
Total 2000	1,188,917

Source: Association of American Railroads



## Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Grain Carloads Originated

Grain Carloads Originated									
			East		West			Canada	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
03/02/02	0	2,783	0	3,333	8,124	581	6,406	3,643	3,800
This Week Last Year	0	3,735	0	3,259	8,781	446	6,677	4,568	4,227
2002 YTD	0	28,029	0	28,398	76,676	6,391	60,864	36,152	33,925
2001 YTD	0	31,281	0	29,067	80,686	4,477	58,488	43,009	45,195
2001 Total	0	151,864	0	163,018	428,603	26,330	347,156	254,982	232,461
2000 Total	0	147,708	70,155	153,905	425,849	26,515	364,785	160,749	239,670

Source: Association of American Railroads

## Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

March 2002

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
03/04/02	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$22.60	\$0.62
03/04/02	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,877	\$42.74	\$1.16
03/04/02	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,650	\$18.19	\$0.50
03/04/02	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,347	\$47.92	\$1.30
03/04/02	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,005	\$44.15	\$1.20
03/04/02	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,700	\$29.76	\$0.76
03/04/02	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

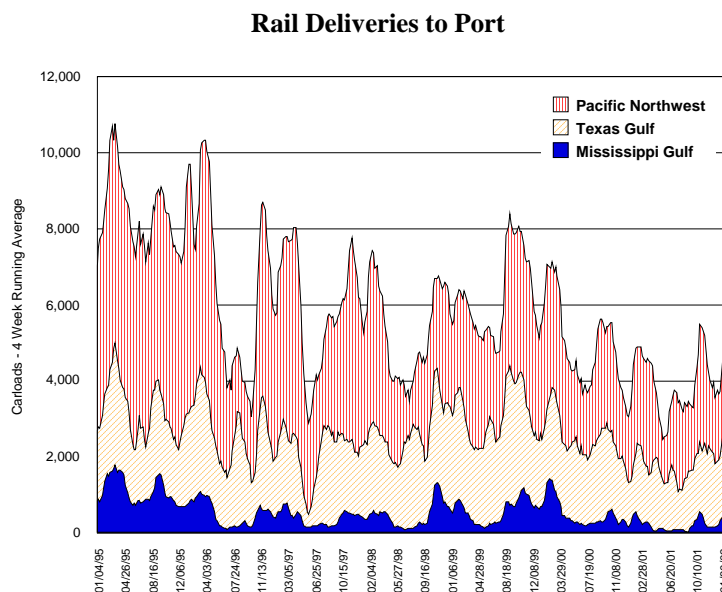
Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat &amp; Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

**Rail Deliveries to Port****Carloads**

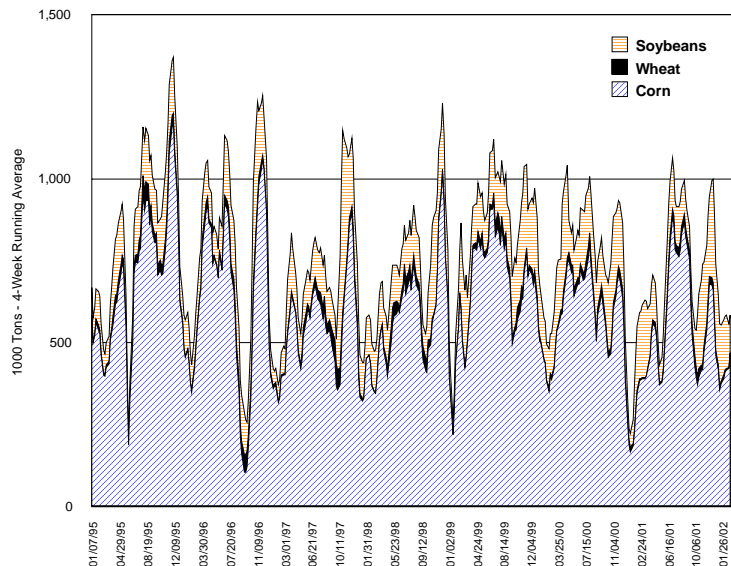
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
01/30/02	673*	2,764*	2,495	873
02/06/02	287*	1,328	3,484	663
02/13/02	640*	2,078	4,316	497
02/20/02	758*	2,058	2,523	603
02/27/02	609*	2,165	2,518**	875
03/06/02	299*	1,747	2,518**	380
YTD 2002	4,245*	17,794*	23,465	7,129
YTD 2001	3,156	14,088	22,545	8,077
Total 2000	25,675	105,308	129,464	14,816
Total 1999	30,038	132,069	161,492	14,446

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing/AMS/USDA



(\*) Incomplete Data

(\*\*) Identical figures are correct

**Barge Movements - Locks 27****Barge Grain Movements**

for week ending 3/02/02

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	0	0	0	0
Alton, IL (L26)	495	3	69	567
Granite City, IL (L27)	501	3	67	571
Illinois River (L8)	438	3	54	495
Ohio (L52)	126	26	56	261
Arkansas (L1)	0	29	10	39
2002 YTD	5,034	318	2,087	7,854
2001 YTD	4,012	350	2,048	6,862
Total 2001	31,878	2,679	10,616	47,091
Total 2000	33,482	2,518	10,327	48,247

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; L15 &amp; L25 closed for winter.

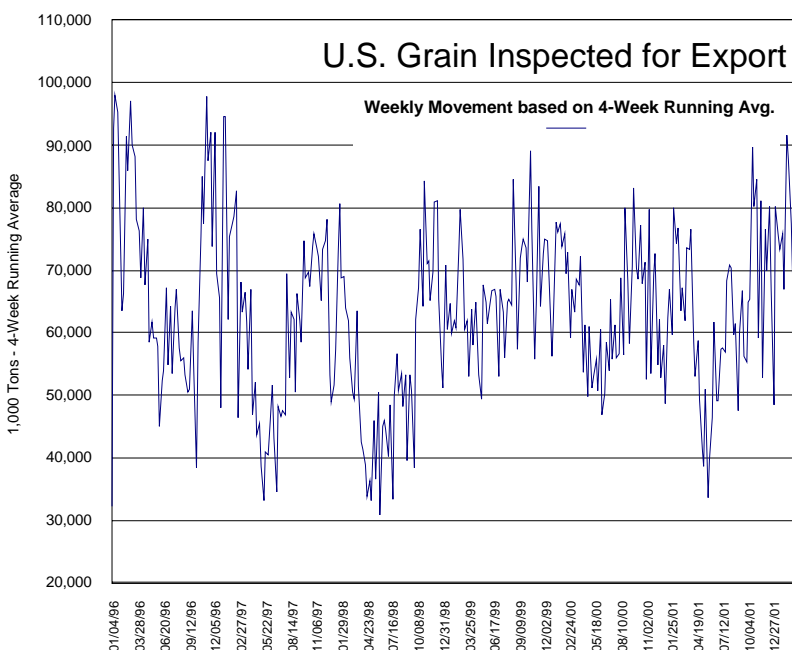
**U.S. Export Balances** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	Wheat <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	Corn	Soybean	Total
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
02/28/02	1,366	673	890	456	173	3,558	7,530	4,468	15,556
This Week Year Ago	1,204	387	847	910	182	3,530	7,415	5,129	16,074
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
01/02 YTD	6,418	4,159	4,179	2,477	960	18,194	21,710	20,619	60,523
00/01 YTD	7,191	3,558	4,313	3,862	868	19,792	22,492	17,713	59,997
97/98 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
96/97 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date ([www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov)) Crop Year:Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

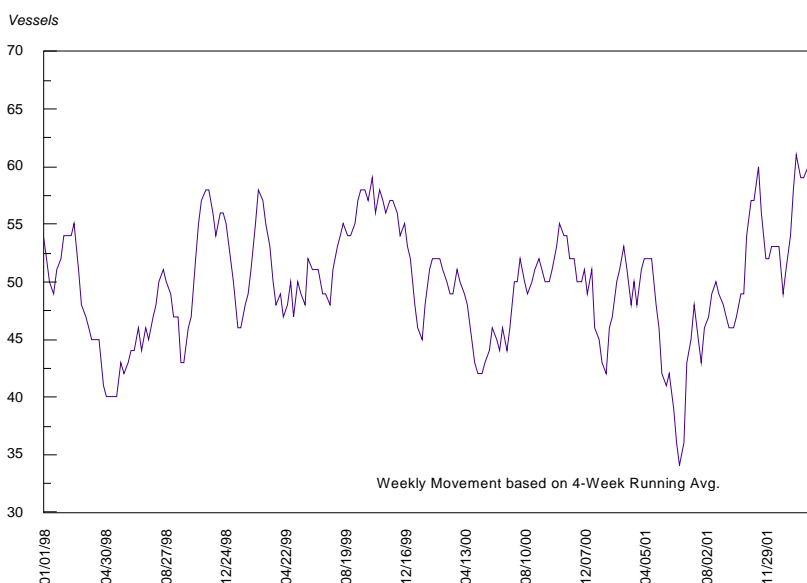
	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
03/07/02	197	88	90	207	691	416	125	0	0
2001 YTD	1,666	1,017	818	1,022	6,418	5,840	1,065	14	596
2000 YTD	1,904	797	765	1,029	5,217	4,464	1,128	102	476
% of Last Year	17%	17%	48%	15%	18%	33%	15%	3%	59%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service YTD-Year-to-Date

**Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections**  
1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 03/07/02			
Vancouver	3,984	238	353
Prince Rupert	773	0	0
Prairie Direct	852	278	197
Thunder Bay	294	191	45
St. Lawrence	1,706	1,181	0
2001 YTD Exports	7,609	1,888	595
2000 YTD Exports	7,327	1,920	1,055
% of Last Year	104%	98%	56%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission, Crop year 8/1-7/31



**Gulf Region  
Vessels Loaded  
- Past 7 Days-**

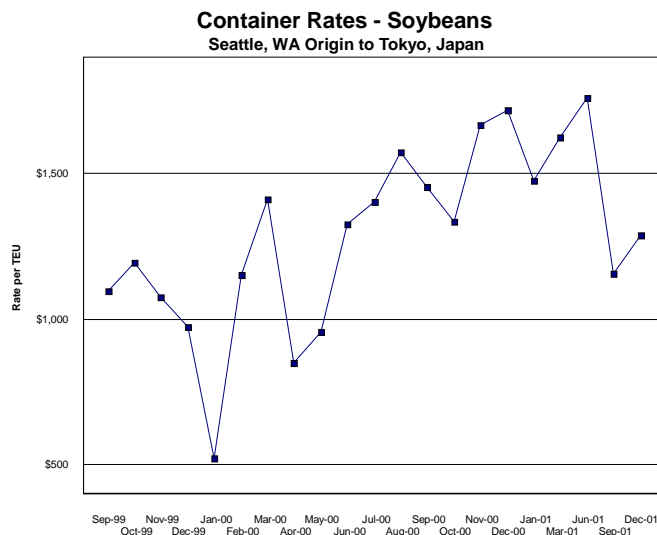
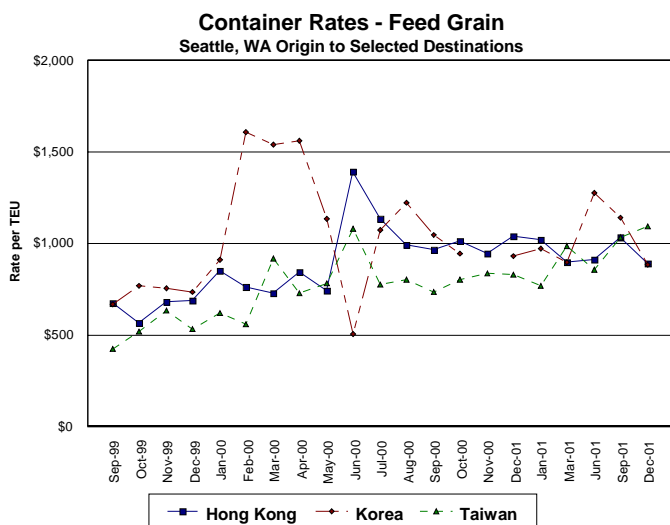
### Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
02/28/02	51	66	73	5	4		11	14	2
03/07/02	33	65	68	12	5		3	10	5
1999 Range	(14..47)	(39..65)	(34..80)	(6..18)			(2..20)	(2..15)	(0..9)
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)				(1..19)	(3..14)	(0..10)
1999 Avg	32	52	65				9	9	3
1998 Avg	40	48	61				10	9	3
1997 Avg	33	45	58						

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA

### Container Ocean Freight Rates

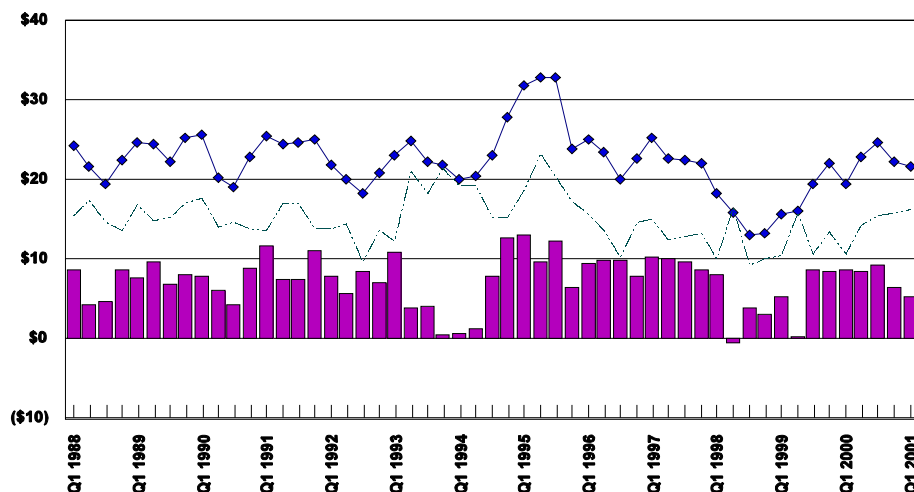
Monthly Weighted Averages Based on Shipping Line Monthly Mkt. Share



Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

◆ Rate - Gulf to Japan  
 --- Rate - PNW to Japan  
 ■ Spread - Gulf vs. PNW to Japan

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean  
Freight Rates

### Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	2001 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	2000 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	% Change		2001 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	2000 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$16.25	\$22.38	-27%	Japan	\$9.64	\$15.87	-39%
Mexico		\$13.39	-	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea		\$26.70	-
Venezuela		\$13.29	-				
N. Europe	\$11.73	\$14.96	-22%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$16.98	\$22.26	-24%	Med. Sea	\$17.47		-
Med. Sea	\$10.58	\$15.19	-30%	N. Europe	\$16.22	\$18.97	-14%
				Japan	\$26.33		-

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA; (\*) rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs.=one metric ton)

### Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 3/2/02

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Albany	Casablanca	Heavy Grain	Feb 22/28	25,000	\$15.25
Gulf	Egypt	Heavy Grain	Feb 27/28	55,000	\$10.75
Gulf	Egypt	Heavy Grain	Mar 10/20	60,000	\$10.75
Gulf	Algeria	Maize	Mar 1/10	25,000	\$15.00
Gulf	Algeria	Maize	Feb 27/Mar 5	25,000	\$16.50
N. Pacific	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	Mar 15/22	54,000	\$11.00
River Plate	Spain	Soybean Pellets	Mar 1/5	25,000	\$16.80
River Plate	Syria	Heavy Grain	Mar 10/20	35,000	\$22.00
Ukraine	Spain	Wheat	Mar 1/10	50,000/60,000	\$6.90

Source: Maritime Research Inc.; rates shown are for long ton (2,240 lbs.=one long ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicated; op=option